

A new species of *Octomeria* (*Orchidaceae*) from French Guyana

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Summary : A new species of *Octomeria* is described from French Guyana. It is distinguished by the small habit ; narrowly elliptical leaves as long as the ramicaul ; free, one-veined sepals ; and an orbicular, prominently denticulate lip.

Résumé : Description d'une espèce nouvelle d'*Octomeria* de Guyane française. Elle se distingue par sa petite taille ; des feuilles étroitement elliptiques aussi longues que le ramicaule ; des sépales libres, uninervés ; et un labelle orbiculaire fortement denticulé.

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One hundred eighty-six epithets have been attributed to the genus *Octomeria* R. Br. encompassing more than 150 species. The vast majority of the species occur in Brazil ; 18 species have been identified from the Guianas, but only six have been recorded from French Guyana. About the same number of species is known from the whole of Central America, and also about only six species are known from Colombia or Ecuador. DUNSTERVILLE illustrated 21 species of *Octomeria* from Venezuela.

In addition to the eight pollinia, the inflorescence of all species of *Octomeria* is characterized by a fascicle of single flowers borne successively or simultaneously from near the apex of the ramicaul. The sepals are free except in a few species the laterals are connate to some degree. The petals are usually similar to the sepals. The lip is entire or with basal lobes. The margin of the blade is usually more or less smooth, but lobules, undulations and a few teeth often occur.

The base of the lip of the majority of the species is hinged to the base of a short, thick column-foot. In a few species the base of the lip is acutely deflexed with the basal angles of the blade embracing the column. This last character is seen in the presently described species and three species known from Venezuela : *O. cordilabia* C. Schweinf., *O. lancipetala* C. Schweinf., *O. splendida* Garay & Dunsterville. The presently described species is distinguished by the very small habit and a suborbicular blade of the lip with a conspicuously denticulate margin.

***Octomeria sarthouae* Luer, sp. nov.**

Planta parva, foliis crassis anguste ellipticis ramicaule paucivaginato plus minusve aequilongis, floribus fasciculatis successivis brevissime pedunculatis, sepalis petalisque liberis purpureis ovatis acutis, labello atropurpureo suborbiculari denticulato bicalloso basi argute deflexo.

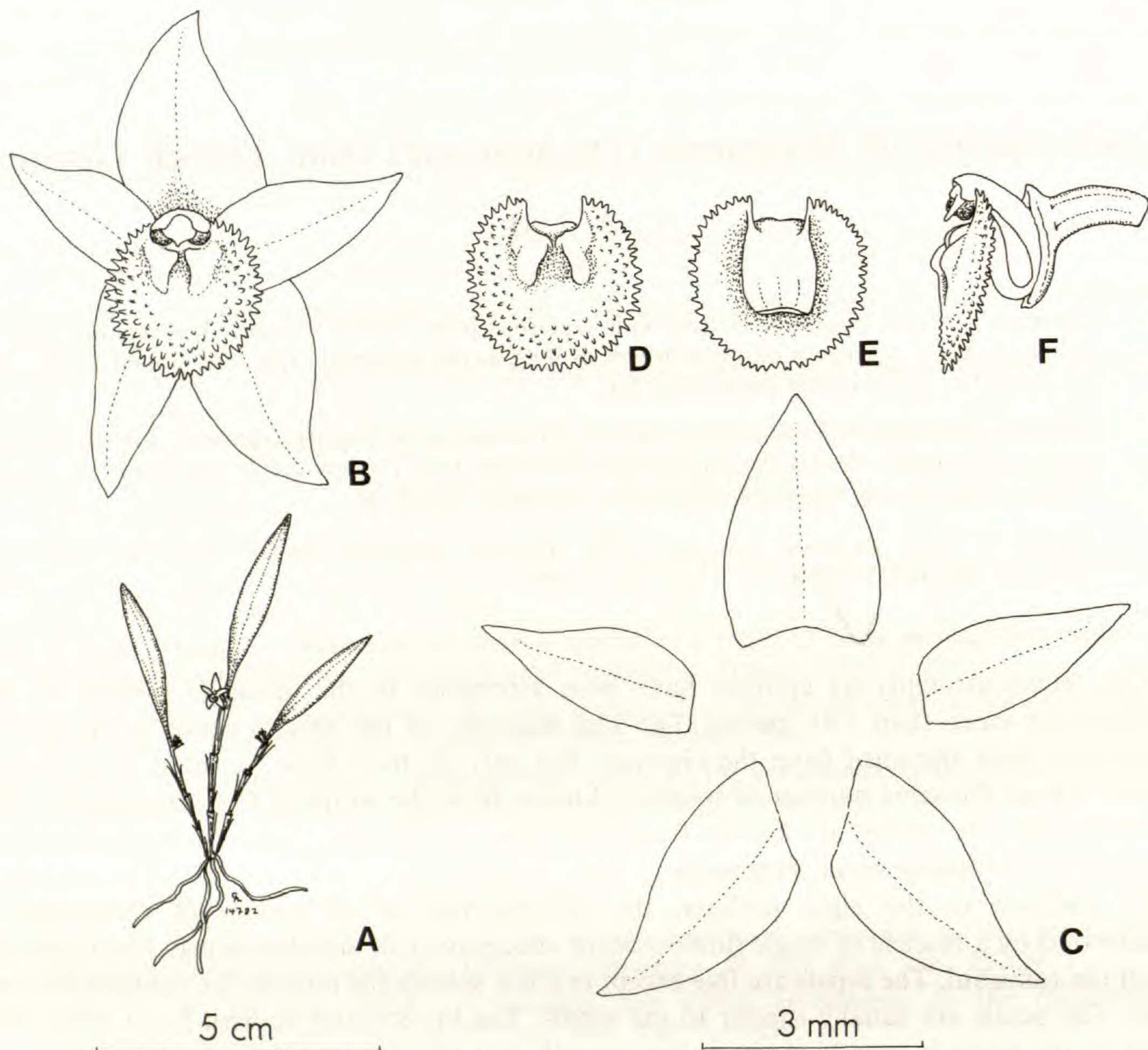


Fig. 1. — *Octomeria sarthouae* Luer : **A**, habit ; **B**, flower ; **C**, sepals and petals ; **D**, lip, front view ; **E**, lip, back view ; **F**, lip, column and ovary, side view.

TYPE : *Sarthou* 495, French Guyana, epiphytic in Montagne des Nouragues, Bassin de l'Arataye, 15 Mar. 1989 (holo-, P ; iso-, CAY, MO).

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose ; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 1-3 cm long, enclosed by 3-4 ribbed, tubular, fugacious sheaths. Leaf erect, thickly coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, acute, 15-35 mm long, 2.5-4.5 mm wide, narrowed below into a petiole 2-3 mm long.

Inflorescence a congested fascicle of successive, single flowers, near the apex of the ramicaul, the peduncles less than 1 mm long ; floral bracts 1-1.5 mm long ; pedicels 1-1.5 mm long ; ovary 1.5 mm long ; sepals free, purple, glabrous, ovate, acute, 1-veined, the dorsal sepal

3 mm long, 2.2 mm wide, the lateral sepals oblique, 3.75 mm long, 2 mm wide ; petals purple, ovate, acute, 1-veined, 3 mm long, 1.4 mm wide ; lip dark purple, suborbicular, denticulate, 2 mm long, 2 mm wide, the base cordate with the obtuse basal angles embracing the column above the middle, the disc papillose-verrucose, with a pair of low, smooth, oblong calli from the base, cleft between, the base oblong, acutely deflexed against the blade, continuous with the column-foot ; column semiterete, 1.5 mm long, irregular at the apex, the foot short, continuous with the basal portion of the lip.

This species is distinguished by the small habit with thick, narrowly elliptical leaves about as long as the ramicauls. The inflorescence is a succession of small, short-stemmed, purple flowers produced in a fascicle below the base of the leaf. The sepals are free, ovate, acute, and one-veined. The petals are similar. The lip is round with a prominently denticulate margin. The basal angles embrace the column, while the base is acutely deflexed against the back of the blade.

This species is named in honor of Corinne SARTHOU, University Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris VI), France, who discovered this novelty.